

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03279 01 OF 02 021819Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10
OIC-02 HEW-06 AID-05 OES-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00
SIL-01 AGRE-00 FEA-01 CEQ-01 ERDA-07 DODE-00
EPA-04 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15
SP-02 INT-05 /170 W

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R 021648Z MAY 76
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6986
INFO USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL LYON

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3279

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IARC FR WHO UNEP
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER
SIXTEENTH SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL, LYON, APRIL 28-29,
1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IARC GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) NOTED IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH UNEP, HEARD IARC PROGRAM STRATEGY CRITICIZED BY SOVIET DELEGATE AND WHO DEPUTY DG, WRESTLED WITH PROBLEM POSED BY SOVIETS' UNILATERAL FREEZE OF THEIR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION, WELCOMED ITALIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF EARLY PAYMENT OF ARREARS, APPROVED 1978-79 BUDGET, APPOINTED WORKING PARTY TO ADVISE, INTER ALIA, ON POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IARC STATUTE, AND APPROVED FEASIBILITY STUDY OF MAJOR NEW DATA COLLECTION INITIATIVE WITH POSSIBLE LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. UNEP: IARC DIRECTOR HIGGINSON REPORTED INCREASED COLLABORATION
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03279 01 OF 02 021819Z

TION BETWEEN UNEP AND IARC, AIMED AT AVOIDING OVERLAPS. VISITS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED AND MORE WERE PLANNED. UNEP HAS BEGUN TO SUBMIT ITS PUBLICATIONS TOUCHING ON CANCER TO IARC FOR ADVANCE CLEARANCE. UNEP WILL FUND A NEW IARC PROJECT. JOINT MEETING NEXT SEPTEMBER WILL EXAMINE FURTHER AREAS OF POSSIBLE COLLABORATION.

3. EVALUATION: REPORTING FOR IARC'S SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL, PROFESSOR UPTON (US) DESCRIBED GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESULTS OF ITS ANNUAL IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF MAJOR PARTS OF IARC'S TOTAL PROGRAM. MADE CONDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION FOR WINDING DOWN SUB-PROGRAM ON OESOPHAGEAL CANCER. WHO DEPUTY DG, DR LAMBO, REPRESENTING WHO DG MAHLER WHO IS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF GC, COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH. HE SAID IARC PROGRAM APPEARED OVER-AMBITIOUS, INSUFFICIENTLY BASED ON ON-GOING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CANCER PROGRAMS, AND NOT REALLY RELEVANT TO NEEDS OF LDCS. IN ANIMATED DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, ONLY SOVIET DELEGATE AGREED, SAYING LAMBO'S COMMENTS ILLUSTRATED NEED, LONG URGED BY USSR, FOR REVISING IARC STATUTE. BELGIAN DELEGATE (CHAIRMAN OF GC) COMMENTED THAT IARC HAD MODEST PROGRAM TO FIT ITS SMALL BUDGET. IN SOME INDIGNATION HE ASKED IF LAMBO WAS DELIBERATELY SEEKING TO TROUBLE RELATIONS BETWEEN WHO AND IARC. LAMBO DENIED HE WAS.

4. FRENCH DELEGATE SAID IRONICALLY THAT HE AND HIS FELLOW DELEGATES WERE NOT ACCUSTOMED TO HEARING HIGH OFFICIAL OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION RECOMMEND PROGRAM CUTS. HE AFFIRMED THAT IARC COLLABORATIVE RELATIONS WITH LDCS WERE AT LEAST AS GOOD AS WHO'S. UK, HOLLAND, ITALY AND US POOKE IN SUPPORT OF IARC PROGRAM USDEL (DR O'CONOR, NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE) POINTED OUT THAT IARC PROGRAM HAD BEEN CONCENTRATING FOR YEARS, WITH PRAISEWORTHY FLEXIBILITY OF APPROACH UNDER RESTRICTED BUDGETS, ON ENVIRONMENTAL CARCINOGENE-
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03279 01 OF 02 021819Z

SIS. DIRECTOR HIGGINSON IN SUMMARY COMMENTS SAID TIGHT IARC BUDGETS PREVENTED PROGRAM EXPANSION AND STIMULATED CONTINUAL PROGRAM REASSESSMENT. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT LAMBO'S CLAIM THAT IARC WAS DOING TOO MUCH, AND HE SAID DG MAHLER HAD NEVER EXPRESSED SUCH A VIEW TO HIM. HIGGINSON MAINTAINED STRONGLY THAT IARC HAS CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH MANY LDCS AND GAVE EXAMPLES. LAMBO DID NOT INSIST.

5. ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS: ITALIAN DELEGATE (ITALY WAS ABSENT FROM LAST YEAR'S GC) ANNOUNCED BRIEFLY THAT ITALIAN PARLIAMENT HAD RECENTLY ENACTED LAW REMOVING CERTAIN LEGAL OBSTACLES. CONSEQUENTLY, ITALIAN ARREARS (\$670,000) WOULD SOON BE PAID. SOVIET DELEGATE (VENEDIKTOV, DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH), THEN GAVE LONG, RAMBLING EXPLANATION OF SOVIET DECISION TO FREEZE 1976 AND 1977 CONTRIBUTIONS AT 1975 LEVEL, MAKING USSR \$140,000 IN ARREARS FOR 1976. INSTEAD OF ELABORATING

ON PRINCIPAL REASON GIVEN IN FORMAL SOVIET NOTIFICATION TO IARC LAST DECEMBER, I.E. RISING IARC BUDGETS, VENEDIKTOV CALLED FOR THOROUGH REVIEW OF IARC STATUTE. HE DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF SUCH REVIEW AS BEING TO DEFINE IARC GOALS MORE NARROWLY, CLARIFY RELATIONS AMONG IARC, WHO AND INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST CANCER (UICC) AND, ALL THOUGH HE LEFT THIS VAGUE, ADOPTION OF CONSENSUS PROCEDURE (INSTEAD OF TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY) FOR APPROVING REGULAR BUDGETS. BELGIAN, FRENCH, UK, FRG AND DUTCH DELEGATES IN TURN VOICED VARYING DEGREES OF PUZZLEMENT REGRET, RESENTMENT AND CONDEMNATION. US DELEGATE CITED SOVIET OBLIGATION TO PAY UNDER ARTICLE 8, SPOKE HIGHLY OF CURRENT COLLABORATION AMONG WHO, IARC AND UICC, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE HARM TO PROGRAMS AS WELL AS UNFAIR SHIFTING OF PART OF BURDEN TO OTHER MEMBERS. VENEDIKTOV SAID USSR IS TIRED OF PAYING

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03279 02 OF 02 021919Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6987
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 3279

CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER BEING OUTVOTED. HE CHARGED THAT US HAD ALREADY SET AN EXAMPLE FOR UNILATERAL WITHHOLDING IN SUCH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS ILO.

6. DURING BREAK BELGIAN AND FRENCH DELEGATES INITIATED PROPOSALS WHICH LED TO A COMPLICATED AND WOBBLY COMMITMENT. GC AGREED TO APPOINT SPECIAL WORKING PARTY

US, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, FRG) WHICH WILL STUDY SOVIET VIEWS ON STATUTE REVISION - AFTER SOVIETS HAVE SPELLED THEM OUT IN A DOCUMENT - AND WILL SOMEHOW "BEAR THEM IN MIND" IN THE COURSE OF FULFILLING ANOTHER TASK, THAT OF ADVISING DIRECTOR HIGGINSON ON HOW IARC SHOULD RESPOND TO QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE RAISED IN COURSE OF A STUDY SOON TO BEGIN ON RELATIONS BETWEEN WHO'S CANCER UNIT AND IARC. THIS STUDY WAS ORDERED BY WHO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD LAST JANUARY, IN PART AT SOBIET INSTIGATION. IN MEAN-TIME, SOVIET "FREEZE" NOTIFICATION TO IARC WILL BE HELD

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03279 02 OF 02 021919Z

OVER FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION BY NEXT GC. BELGIAN CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HOPE AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS THAT PROBLEM WOULD "GO AWAY" BY NEXT YEAR. VENEDIKTOV SAID HE AGREED.

7. 1978-79 BUDGET: US ASKED DIRECTOR TO EXPLAIN WHAT PROGRAM CUTS HE WOULD MAKE IN VIEW OF SOVIET WITHHOLDING. HIGGINSON REPLIED THAT WORKING CAPITAL FUND, SOON TO BE REPLENISHED BY PAYMENT OF ITALIAN ARREARS, WOULD BE TAPPED IF NECESSARY TO KEEP ENTIRE PROGRAM GOING. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION BUDGET WAS ADOPTED, WITH USSR DISSENTING.

8. NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL: GC APPROVED DIRECTOR'S PROPOSAL TO FUND TWO-YEAR FEASIBILITY STUDY ON NEW PROGRAM TO IMPROVE COLLECTION AND EVALUATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA FROM NATIONAL SOURCES. USDEL COMMENDED THE PROPOSAL BUT EMPHASIZED IMPLICATIONS IN TERMS OF NEED FOR LONG RANGE SUPPORT BY MANY COUNTRIES IF STUDY PROVED FAVORABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A PROGRAM, IF SUCCESSFUL, WOULD HELP STIMULATE NEW MEMBERSHIPS IN IARC. HOLLAND, ITALY, AUSTRALIA, UK AND FRANCE ALSO SUPPORTED FEASIBILITY STUDY. AUSTRALIA AND UK DELEGATIONS CAUTIONED ABOUT NEED TO KEEP LONG TERM FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS IN MIND.

9. NEW MEMBERS: REVISED PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION WERE APPROVED. AN APPARENTLY IMPROMPTU FRENCH/BELGIAN PROPOSAL FOR ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS WAS ADVANCED. IDEA WAS TO HAVE GC SEND INVITATIONS TO CERTAIN STATES UNDERSTOOD TO BE ON VERGE OF ASKING TO JOIN, SUGGESTING THEY SEND OBSERVER, WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT ON THEIR PART, TO NEXT SESSION OF GC. AS PROPOSAL WAS DISCUSSED, COMPLICATING CONSIDERATIONS BEGAN TO SURFACE AND FRENCH FINALLY WITHDREW IT.

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03279 02 OF 02 021919Z

10. GIFTS AND GRANTS: US DELEGATE WARNED THT BUDGET-ARY CONSTRAINTS MIGHT FORCE CURTAILMENT OF US CONTRACTS WITH IARC IN NEAR FUTURE. IF THIS HAPPENED IT WOULD NOT SIGNIFY US DISAPPOINTMENT WITH IARC'S WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS. THESE HAVE BEEN VERY VALUABLE. HOWEVER, US DELEGATE URGED OTHER MEMBERS TO BEGIN PLAYING BIGGER ROLE IN THIS AREA.

1. OTHER DECISIONS: THREE NEW MEMBERS ELECTED TO 4-YEAR TERMS ON SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL WERE DRS. BOGOVSKI (USSR), TUBIANA (FRANCE), AND SAXEN (FINLAND). IN CLOSING MINUTES GC ELECTED ITS NEW CHAIRMAN, H. VOIGTLANDER (FRG), AND SET DATES FOR 17TH SESSION: APRIL 27-28, 1978.SORENSEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CANCER, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEDICAL RESEARCH, MEETING REPORTS
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009